

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Days of Remembrance as our Nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. As you know, Congress designated this week-long observance in honor of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to serve as a permanent living memorial to them.

This year's Remembrance week is April 15th through the 22nd, and communities throughout the country will observe this occasion with educational programs and other activities. I am pleased to share with my colleagues that the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, in my district, is proclaiming April 22 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

It is important that we pause annually to reflect on the systemic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. More than six million Jews were murdered during that period and countless others were targeted for oppression or destruction based on factors of race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, disability or sexual orientation. The atrocities of that era serve as a reminder for current and future generations about the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments. This year's national theme, as selected by the museum, is "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue" and seeks to capture that sentiment.

Confronted with the cruelty against humanity taking place in front of them, many witnesses faced a choice of whether to intervene. Of course, doing so brought the risk of severe punishment, and, in some cases, death. Fear drove many to idly stand by, but there were many ordinary citizens who carried out extraordinary acts of courage on behalf of their fellow man, whether it was a government official who forged identity papers or the housewife and her daughter who hid a family in their attic. Ultimately the United States and the Allies, which later became the United Nations, prevailed over the Axis powers, preventing the further spread of their tyranny and evil.

Mr. Speaker, commemorative events marking the Days of Remembrance are taking place here in our Nation's capital and in communities throughout the country. I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to take part in one of these observances. This is a time to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors, the nation of Israel, and our allies across the globe to once again rekindle awareness of this terrible tragedy in world history and to rededicate ourselves to never allowing such acts to happen again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday (Monday,

April 16th) and missed rollcall votes 152–153. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes 152 (H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act) and 153 (H.R. 4040, which would provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus).

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VALOR AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Two members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipient: Private First Class Naftali Jacob

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipient: MDS Kathleen Holohan

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

H.R. 4134

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 4134, which I introduced on March 5, 2012. This legislation will curtail a tax abuse involving the mass production of cigarettes through "roll-your-own" machines at retail establishments. Currently, so-called "pipe tobacco" is taxed at rates dramatically less than "cigarette tobacco" and "roll-your-own tobacco." That has had the effect of forming an industry of retailers that put RYO machines in their stores that allow customers to manufacture cigarettes for far less than the cost of name-brand cigarettes.

My legislation will require that RYO cigarettes are produced on a level playing field

with all other cigarettes. In doing so—and this is very important—H.R. 4134 should be read as applying prospectively only—neither retailers nor consumers of RYO cigarettes before the date of enactment of my legislation should be forced to pay any taxes on cigarettes manufactured in these machines and sold before the date of enactment. I understand that there is litigation pending in this regard brought by the Department of the Treasury. My legislation should end that litigation and settle this issue once and for all.

I also want to note that H.R. 4134 is not intended to affect small, hand-operated devices used by customers at home to assemble roll-your-own cigarettes. These small devices, which customers take away from the retail establishment in original packaging and use for personal convenience and not for commercial purposes, have been sold for many decades without giving rise to the tax avoidance abuse my legislation seeks to address.

I am very pleased that Senator MAX BAUCUS amended the Senate-passed highway transportation bill with language very similar to my bill. I look forward to working with him and others in order to enact this law, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4134 in the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2012 ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving the economic development for Asian Pacific American owned businesses in the Washington, D.C. region. The 11th District of Virginia is blessed by its diversity; 1 in 4 residents are foreign born and more than 40% are minorities, with Asian Americans representing the largest ethnic group. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation. The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our economic strength and stability; Asian-American businesses generate more than 52% of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region.

Each year, the AACC recognizes businesses and non-profits in the Asian American community for their outstanding contributions to the Metropolitan Washington community and economy. I congratulate the following individuals and businesses for receiving one of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber of Commerce Awards:

Asian Business Leader Award (Posthumous): Mr. Jay Chen, Asian Fortune.

Volunteer of the Year: Mr. Vance Zavela, Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships.

Small Business of the Year: Analee's Prom, Bridal, Special Occasion & Tuxedo.